

179th receives top billing at airport

It is Sunday morning of UTA and the wing is right in the middle of our "dress rehearsal" for the upcoming Initial Response/Unit Compliance Inspection next month. We found a few glitches here and there, but the overall impression I've gained from this whole process is nothing short of fantastic. Everyone is leaning forward and demonstrating teamwork, creativity, initiative and all of those traits that result in mission accomplishment. It is impressive to watch, and something we should all be very proud of. My thanks to everyone for your hard work and the sacrifices you are making during this very busy year.

Despite being extremely busy, we even managed to squeeze in our Family Support Golf Outing and a few other social events. The golf outing was another great success thanks to the leadership of Lt. Col. Jay Williams and his helpers. We had a super turnout of unit members, retirees and our friends in the community. It was a fun day for



Leadership Perspectives Col. Richard Green

everyone with good food, good friends, lots of prizes and even some golf!

This week we had the honor of groundbreaking the new airport sign that will be erected at the corner of

Harrington and Route 13. This sign is the vision of Ralph Ridenour, a local businessman and member of the airport commission, not to mention a believer in the 179th Airlift Wing. However, the term "airport sign" isn't really correct because the headliner, and I do mean headliner, is the 179th Airlift Wing! It will not take long for the sign to be completed and I assure you it will be both beautiful and impressive.

Our relationship with the city of Mansfield is really something special. Mayor Lydia Reid and other community leaders all enthusiastically approved this design even though it gave Mansfield Lahm Airport second billing. The supportive relationship we enjoy with our city has grown throughout the years because of the efforts of our previous leaders and Friends of the Guard. That relationship very definitely adds up to our achieving success as a wing and making this a great place to work and serve our state and nation. Together we succeed!

Command Chief reports home from overseas

By: Chief Bill Kohler
179th Command Chief

Greetings from Ganci Air Base, just outside of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. What a treat this is to be able to put into practice some of my skills as command chief. I'm here in the middle of what used to be Russia, with a group of military from not only the U.S. Air Force, but also the U.S. Marines, French, Spanish, Norwegians and Australians... a coalition force indeed. What makes this tour especially satisfying is the fact that I'm here with some folks from back home. BG Ashcraft, Ohio's chief of staff and former member of the 179th AW, is the commander here. Lt. Col. Jeff McQuillen, one of our own navigators is serving as Ashcraft's executive

officer, and of course myself, Chief Master Sgt. Bill Kohler, serving as command chief. In case you haven't picked up on it yet, this is all Air National Guard in the top leadership positions, and all from Mansfield. The transition from the command of BG Patrick to BG Ashcraft was seamless; one of the best transitions I've seen in my many years in the military.

In my short time here, I've had a chance to work with all of the coalition forces. Even though we have our different customs, we're all working together as a well-oiled team doing our part to help fight terrorism. The days can be pretty long, but with all there is to do, they go by pretty fast. My "office" is the entire base, so I'm out most of the day visiting, making sure the enlisted folks have the tools

and information they need to get the job done. I'm absolutely astonished at how good the work ethic and morale is here. Most everyone here is living in tents. The tents aren't too bad; air-conditioned/heated, electricity and wooden floors. All the beds are "real" beds, not cots. Quite a few of the tents are individualized with wooden "porches" out from; some with railing, some with hand made signs and quite a few with rocking chairs that were built by the tent residents. Tents are prevalent for just about everything. The post office, persco, lodging office, chapel, laundry, dining hall, just to name a few are all housed in tents.

I hope this gives you just a small taste of what goes on over here. Keep the home fires burning. I look forward to seeing you around the end of November.